

***Listing of Claims***

**Please replace all prior versions of claims with the following listing of claims:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method ~~of~~ for mining documents associated with a user e-mails to determine a the user's affinities, comprising:

generating a master category list including categories derived from a first set of keywords;

accessing a set of documents that are associated with an e-mail system and retrieving from the system the e-mails sent to and from the user;

extracting a second set of keywords from the set of documents retrieved e-mails;

generating a user category list of including categories based on derived from the extracted second set of keywords;

accessing the a master category list;

filtering the generated-user category list by removing categories from the generated user category list those categories that are do not match categories included in the master category list; and

for each category remaining in the generated filtered user category list, calculating an affinity value and associating the affinity value with the corresponding category, wherein the affinity value represent the strength of the user's relationship to the corresponding category.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of submitting a proposed user affinity for publication, wherein the proposed user affinity includes one of the categories included in the ~~from the generated user category list~~ and the affinity value associated with the category.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of determining an affinity value threshold.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of determining whether the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity exceeds the affinity value threshold.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein if the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity does not exceed the affinity value threshold, then the proposed user affinity is not published.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of publishing the proposed user affinity if it is determined that the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity exceeds the affinity value threshold.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of notifying the user of the proposed user affinity and requesting from the user a response that indicates whether or not the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published if it is determined that the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity exceeds the affinity value threshold.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of publishing the proposed user affinity if the user does not respond to the request for a response within a predetermined amount of time.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving the response from the user;  
determining whether the response indicates that the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published; and  
publishing the proposed user affinity if it is determined that the response indicates that the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the step of publishing the proposed user affinity comprises the step of updating a profile associated with the user such that the profile indicates that the user has an affinity for the category included in the proposed user affinity.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A system for mining documents associated with a user e-mails to determine a the user's affinities, comprising:

means for generating a master category list including categories derived from a first set of keywords;

means for accessing a set of documents that are associated with an e-mail system and retrieving from the system the e-mails sent to and from the user;

means for extracting a second set of keywords from the set of documents retrieved e-mails;

means for generating a user category list of including categories derived from based on the extracted second set of keywords;

means for accessing a the master category list;

means for filtering the generated user category list by removing categories from the generated user category list those categories that are do not match categories included in the master category list; and

means for calculating an affinity value for each category remaining in the generated filtered user category list, wherein the affinity value represent the strength of the user's relationship to the corresponding category.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 11, further comprising an affinity publisher module for receiving a proposed user affinity, wherein the proposed user affinity includes one of the categories from included in the generated user category list and the calculated affinity value associated with the category.

13. **(Original)** The system of claim 12, further comprising an affinity publication policy that defines an affinity value threshold.

14. **(Original)** The system of claim 13, wherein the affinity publisher module comprises means for determining whether the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity exceeds the affinity value threshold.

15. **(Original)** The system of claim 14, wherein if the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity does not exceed the affinity value threshold, then the affinity publish module will not publish the proposed user affinity.

16. **(Original)** The system of claim 14, wherein the affinity publisher module will publish the proposed user affinity if it is determined that the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity exceeds the affinity value threshold.

17. **(Original)** The system of claim 14, further comprising means for notifying the user of the proposed user affinity and means for requesting from the user a response that

indicates whether or not the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published.

18. **(Original)** The system of claim 17, further comprising means for determining whether the user has not responded to the request within a predetermined amount of time.

19. **(Original)** The system of claim 17, further comprising:  
means for receiving the response from the user;  
means for determining whether the response indicates that the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published; and

publishing means for publishing the proposed user affinity, wherein, if it is determined that the response indicates that the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published, the publishing means will publish the proposed user affinity.

20. **(Original)** The system of claim 16, wherein the affinity publisher module publishes the proposed user affinity by updating a profile associated with the user such that the profile indicates that the user has an affinity for the category included in the proposed user affinity.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product for mining documents associated with a user e-mails to determine a the user's affinities, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

generating a master category list including categories derived from a first set of keywords;

accessing a set of documents that are associated with an e-mail system and  
retrieving from the system the e-mails sent to and from the user;

extracting a second set of keywords from the set of documents retrieved e-mails;

generating a user category list of including categories based on derived from the  
extracted second set of keywords;

accessing a the master category list;

filtering the generated user category list by removing categories from the  
generated user category list those categories that are do not match categories included  
in the master category list; and

for each category remaining in the generated filtered user category list,  
calculating an affinity value and associating the affinity value with the corresponding  
category, wherein the affinity value represent the strength of the user's relationship to  
the corresponding category.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product claim 21, further comprising computer instructions for submitting a proposed user affinity for publication, wherein the proposed user affinity includes one of the categories ~~from~~ included in the generated user category list and the affinity value associated with the category.

23. **(Original)** The computer program product claim 22, further comprising computer instructions for determining an affinity value threshold.

24. **(Original)** The computer program product claim 23, further comprising computer instructions for determining whether the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity exceeds the affinity value threshold.

25. **(Original)** The computer program product claim 24, wherein if the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity does not exceed the affinity value threshold, then the proposed user affinity is not published.

26. **(Original)** The computer program product claim 24, further comprising computer instructions for publishing the proposed user affinity if it is determined that the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity exceeds the affinity value threshold.

27. **(Original)** The computer program product claim 24, further comprising computer instructions for notifying the user of the proposed user affinity and requesting from the user a response that indicates whether or not the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published if it is determined that the affinity value included in the proposed user affinity exceeds the affinity value threshold.

28. **(Original)** The computer program product claim 27, further comprising computer instructions for publishing the proposed user affinity if the user does not respond to the request for a response within a predetermined amount of time.

29. **(Original)** The computer program product claim 27, further comprising computer instructions for:

receiving the response from the user;

determining whether the response indicates that the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published; and

publishing the proposed user affinity if it is determined that the response indicates that the user wishes to have the proposed user affinity published.

30. **(Original)** The computer program product claim 26, wherein the computer instructions for publishing the proposed user affinity comprises computer instructions for updating a profile associated with the user such that the profile indicates that the user has an affinity for the category included in the proposed user affinity.

31. **(Original)** A computer signal embodied in a carrier wave readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process performing the method recited in claim 1.

32. **(Newly Added)** A method of determining an affinity of a user for one or more categories included in a master category list by determining one or more affinity values, wherein an affinity value represents a strength of a user's relationship with a category, the method comprising:

associating at least one document with the user based on one or more document activities executed by the user;

extracting keywords from the at least one document associated with the user;

generating a user category list of categories based on the extracted keywords;

filtering the user category list by removing categories that are not included in the master category list to generate a filtered category list;

calculating affinity values for the categories included in the filtered category list;

and

storing the affinity values in a user profile associated with the user.

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33. **(Newly Added)** The method of claim 32, wherein a category is defined by information stored in a category profile.